

Amendment
COC11-GN002
Serial No. 10/624,924

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 7-12 and 20-38.

1. (Original) A closure for a container adapted to contain a liquid comprising:
 - a base adapted to be attached to an opening of a liquid container, the base including a conduit extending therethrough that is adapted to be in fluid communication with liquid contents of the liquid container when attached to the opening of the liquid container, and the base further including a substantially tubular spout guide defining at least a portion of the conduit, the base further including an annular deck extending radially inwardly from an inner circumferential surface of the base defining a central orifice in fluid communication with the conduit; and
 - a substantially annular spout mounted to the tubular spout guide for reciprocation at least between an open position and a closed position, the spout including (a) an annular wall and (b) a plug positioned radially within the annular wall;
 - the plug having a leading end and an annular, outer circumferential seal surface that is received within, and plugs the central orifice of the deck when the spout is in the closed position and that is removed from the central orifice deck when the spout is in the open position;
 - at least a substantial portion of the outer circumferential seal surface of the plug being axially recessed or flush with respect to the annular wall of the spout, whereby the annular wall of the spout protects the substantial portion of the seal surface from damage during the molding and assembly operations; and
 - the outer circumferential seal surface having a shape taken from a group consisting of: (i) a smooth cylindrical shape having a substantially constant diameter, and (ii) a smooth frustoconical shape having a diameter that widens with the distance from the leading end, whereby the plug is less susceptible to damage when the spout is axially ejected from a mold after a molding operation.
2. (Original) The closure of claim 1, wherein the annular wall of the spout is an outer annular wall of the spout.

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3. (Original) The closure of claim 1, wherein the spout is threaded to the tubular spout guide so that the spout is twisted with respect to the base to reciprocate the spout between the open and closed positions.

4. (Original) The closure of claim 1, wherein the base includes:

an internally threaded, substantially cylindrical wall for threading onto a throat of a correspondingly threaded container; and

an annular top surface extending radially inwardly from the internally threaded, substantially cylindrical wall;

wherein the tubular spout guide extends coaxially upwardly from the annular top surface; and

wherein the annular deck extends from an inner circumferential surface of one of (x) the internally threaded, substantially cylindrical wall, (y) the annular top surface, and (z) the tubular spout guide.

5. (Original) The closure of claim 4, wherein the deck has a shape in an elevational cross section taken from a group consisting of:

a substantially concave shape; and

a substantially convex shape.

6. (Original) The closure of claim 5, wherein the deck is flexible and substantially resilient.

7-12. (CANCELLED)

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13. (Original) A closure for a container adapted to contain a liquid comprising:
- a base adapted to be attached to an opening of a liquid container, the base including a conduit extending therethrough that is adapted to be in fluid communication with liquid contents of the liquid container when attached to the opening of the liquid container, and the base further including a substantially tubular spout guide defining at least a portion of the conduit, the base further including an annular deck extending radially inwardly from an inner circumferential surface of the base defining a central orifice in fluid communication with the conduit; and
 - a substantially annular spout mounted to the tubular spout guide for reciprocation at least between an open position and a closed position, the spout including (a) an annular wall and (b) a plug positioned radially within the annular wall;
 - the plug having a leading end and an annular, outer circumferential seal surface that is received within, and plugs the central orifice of the deck when the spout is in the closed position and that is removed from the central orifice deck when the spout is in the open position; and
 - the deck has a shape in an elevational cross section taken from a group consisting of: a substantially concave shape and a substantially convex shape.
14. (Original) The closure of claim 13, wherein at least a substantial portion of the outer circumferential seal surface of the plug is axially recessed or flush with respect to the annular wall of the spout, whereby the annular wall of the spout protects the substantial portion of the seal surface from damage during the molding and assembly operations.
15. (Original) The closure of claim 14, wherein the outer circumferential seal surface has a shape taken from a group consisting of: (i) a smooth cylindrical shape having a substantially constant diameter, and (ii) a smooth frustoconical shape having a diameter that widens with the distance from the leading end, whereby the plug is less susceptible to damage when the spout is axially ejected from a mold after a molding operation.

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16. (Original) The closure of claim 13, wherein the annular wall of the spout is an outer annular wall of the spout.
17. (Original) The closure of claim 13, wherein the spout is threaded to the tubular spout guide so that the spout is twisted with respect to the base to reciprocate the spout between the open and closed positions.
18. (Original) The closure of claim 13, wherein the base includes:
an internally threaded, substantially cylindrical wall for threading onto a throat of a correspondingly threaded container; and
an annular top surface extending radially inwardly from the internally threaded, substantially cylindrical wall;
wherein the tubular spout guide extends coaxially upwardly from the annular top surface; and
wherein the annular deck extends from an inner circumferential surface of one of (x) the internally threaded, substantially cylindrical wall, (y) the annular top surface, and (z) the tubular spout guide.
19. (Original) The closure of claim 18, wherein the deck is flexible and substantially resilient.
- 20-38. (CANCELLED)